

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01168 172026Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 EUR-12 /058 W
-----172030 083013 /43

O R 171950Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5818
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ROME
COMSIXTHFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T TUNIS 1168

AMMAN FOR AMBASSADOR MULCAHY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN THREAT TO FIRE ON TUNISIAN NAVAL VESSELS

REF: TUNIS 1115

1. THIS AFTERNOON I WAS ASKED TO CALL TOMORROW MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, ON AHMED GHEZAL, DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS, TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON UNSPECIFIED SUBJECT. THIS EVENING I WAS CALLED AT HOME BY GHEZAL, WHO SAID HE DID NOT THINK MATOER COULD WAIT, AND GOT WOULD LIKE WASHINGTON INFORMED TONIGHT OF SUBSTANCE OF SITUATION THAT HE WOULD DESCRIBE IN GREATER DETAIL TOMORROW.

2. GHEZAL SAID GOT WAS RECENTLY INFORMED BY NOTE FROM LIBYAN GOVERNMENT THAT ITALIAN FIRM AGIP WAS DRILLING OFF-
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SHORE WELL FOR LIBYANS. DRILLING PLATFORM WAS LOCATED BY TUNISIANS AND FOUND TO BE "CLEARLY IN TUNISIAN WATERS." GOT INFORMED LARG OF THIS FACT BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE AND AT THE SAME TIME REQUESTED ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW AGIP OPERATION. ITALIANS AGREED.
TUNISIAN NAVY PATROL CRAFT THEN DELIVERED ORDER TO CAPTAIN OF DRILLING PLATFORM TO WITHDRAW HIS MEN FROM TUNISIAN

WATERS. CAPTAIN AGREED, ASKING ENOUGH TIME TO PROPERLY CAP HOLE. TUNISIANS ALLOWING BRIEF DELAY FOR THIS PURPOSE. LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALLOUD HAS NOW CALLED IN TUNISIAN HIGH REPRESENTATIVE IN TRIPOLI AND TOLD HIM TO INFORM GOT THAT IF THERE ANY FURTHER GOT "INTERFERENCE" WITH DRILLING OPERATION, LIBYA WILL OPEN FIRE ON TUNISIAN PATROL BOATS.

3. I TOLD GHEZAL I WOULD PASS ALONG HIS SYNOPSIS OF SITUATION AS REQUESTED. HE SAID THAT WHEN WE MEET TOMORROW HE WILL PROVIDE TEXTS OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN GOT AND LARG AND FULL DETAILS.
KING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 74
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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